

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF R. S. SMITH: IS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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E. O.11652: N/ A

TAGS: SWEL, EAID, UV

SUBJECT: ROLE OF UPPER VOLTA AMBASSADOR IN SAHEL DISCUS-
SIONS AT UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL, GENEVA, JUNE 21, 1973

REFERENCE: GENEVA 3239

1. AMBASSADOR BENNETT, US DELEGATE TO RECENT UNDP GOVERNING
COUNCIL MEETING IN GENEVA, HAS GIVEN BRIEF ORAL REPORT ON
UNFRIENDLY ROLE PLAYED BY UPPER VOLTA AMBASSADOR TELESPORE
YAGUIBOU DURING THAT MEETING. AMBASSADOR BENNETT STRESSED
THAT YAGUIBOU' S CONDUCT WAS IN DISTINCT CONTRAST TO THAT OF
OTHER VOLTANS, ALL VERY ACTIVE AT THE MEETING, INCLUDING
MINISTER DAKOURE.

2. IN SPEECH ON SAHEL DROUGHT, YAGUIBOU QUOTED AN AMERICAN
PILOT LANDING WITH FOOD SUPPLIES AND BEING UNSURE THERE
WAS REAL DROUGHT BECAUSE PEOPLE HAD NOT RUSHED TO HIS
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PLANE THE WAY THEY HAD IN BANGLADESH. YAGUIBOU NOTED THAT SOME PEOPLE WERE STILL TOO PROUD FOR SUCH BEHAVIOR. HE THEN PRAISED EUROPEANS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SAHEL DISASTER, OMITTING ANY REFERENCE TO U. S. AT BREAK IN PROCEEDINGS, THIS OMISSION WAS BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION AND HE TOOK THE MICROPHONE AGAIN IN THE AFTERNOON TO ADD APPRECIATION " TO OUR TRANSATLANTIC FRIENDS, CANADA AND THE U. S.", THANKING THE LATTER FOR ITS DOLS 3,000 (SIC) CONTRIBUTION.

3. AMBASSADOR BENNETT CORRECTED THIS " ERROR" IN HIS REGULAR STATEMENT WHICH FOLLOWED, AND NOTED DOLS 3 MILLION HAVING BEEN CONTRIBUTED ALREADY BY U. S. AT THIS POINT, YAGUIBOU RUSHED OVER TO U. S. DELEGATION AND SHOWED THAT HIS OWN TEXT SAID DOLS 300,000; HE APOLOGIZED FOR THE READING ERROR AS WELL AS THE FACTUAL ERROR, BUT SAID HE HAD GOTTEN THE FIGURE FROM THE PRESS. (NOTE: IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT YAGUIBOU ATTENDED THE SPECIAL BRIEFING DEPT AND AID GAVE FOR SAHEL AMBASSADORS JUNE 4, DURING WHICH MUCH FACTUAL MATERIAL WAS HANDED TO EACH OF THEM.

4. COMMENT: THIS NOT THE FIRST TIME AMBASSADOR YAGUIBOU HAS MADE STUDIED ERRORS OF THIS SORT. IT IMPORTANT THAT HIS STATEMENTS ON THE SAHEL BE FOLLOWED CLOSELY AND CORRECTED AGAIN, WHEN NECESSARY. RUSH

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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